

H. Res. 379

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

November 17, 2003.

Whereas, on June 23, 2003, the Rice University Owls baseball team won the NCAA baseball championship, defeating Stanford, with a final score of 14 to 2, before 18,494 Owls fans in the final game at the College World Series;

Whereas Rice University is a small but prestigious school, which opened in 1912, and prides itself on being one of the Nation's best academic institutions;

Whereas winning the national championship in a major Division I sport is a remarkable accomplishment for Rice University, which has an undergraduate enrollment of only 2,700 students and holds its athletes to the same high academic standards as the rest of the school population;

Whereas, before this 2003 victory, the Owls made three trips to the College World Series, in 1997, 1999, and 2002, but won just one of seven games;

Whereas the Owls' coach, Wayne Graham, advanced Rice University's baseball program from obscurity to a national championship in 12 years;

Whereas the Owls' victory at the College World Series is Rice University's first national championship in any team

sport and easily the University's crowning athletic achievement;

Whereas Rice University is the second school in the State of Texas to win the NCAA baseball title, joining the University of Texas, which won titles in 1949, 1950, 1975, 1983, and 2002;

Whereas the Owls' victory completed a remarkable season in which Rice University won 58 of the 70 games it played;

Whereas the Owls opened the 2003 College World Series by first defeating Southwest Missouri State and then by defeating Texas University twice in a span of three days, eliminating the defending national champions and securing a spot in the championship round;

Whereas Rice University defeated Stanford, with a score of 4 to 3, in the first championship game, and then lost to Stanford, with a score of 8 to 3, in the second game, forcing the final game; and

Whereas the final score of 14 to 2, establishing Rice University's national championship victory, is the largest margin of victory in a College World Series final game: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors and congratulates the Rice University Owls baseball team for their successful season and their historic, outstanding, and memorable NCAA baseball championship victory.

Attest:

Clerk.